

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

AUTHORIZED
A. C. M. P.



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



10¢

NOV.
NO. 28

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

A
FULL-SIZE
52 page
MAG!

3
FEATURE-LENGTH
BLACK DIAMOND
ILLUSTORIES

JUMP, BUMPER!
SAVE YOURSELF!
WHY SHOULD BOTH
OF US DIE?



CHARLES BIRO



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

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—No laces—No adjustments**

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TRY IT!**

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- Take inches off tummy
- Bring in waist
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BLACK DIAMOND

meets vicious "King" Logus in
THE TALE OF THE FANTASTIC DEATH CLAIMS

CUT OUT AND SAVE!



SEE FREE VALUABLE TRADING CARD OFFER FOLLOWING THIS STORY



ONE CLOUDY NIGHT IN NEVADA, KING LOGUS, HUMAN VULTURE, SURVEYS A GOLD CLAIM WITH HIS TWO PARTNERS.

PLUMS FULL OF GOLD! BUT GOLD WHEREVER YOU LOOK, LOGUS!

THEN WE'VE STUMBLERD ONTO A TREASURE TROVE AS USUAL! NOW TO MAKE IT LEGALLY OURS! GO TO WORK, BOYS! SEE THAT THE PRESENT OWNERS HAVE A NICE DEEP SLEEP!

Dick Rockwell



WEN! (THE OUTLAW!) WAKE UP!

DON'T KILL 'EM ALL! LOGUS WANTS ONE OF 'EM TAKEN ALIVE!



TEN MINUTES LATER, AS THE ECHO OF AGONIZED SCREAMING DIES IN THE HILLS...

PLEASE! I'LL SIGN ANYTHING! ONLY DON'T KILL ME!

THEN STOP GROVELING, YOU WORM! I WANT CLEAN LEGIBLE HANDWRITING ON THE DOCUMENT!



I, WESLEY MITCHELL, HEREBY SWEAR THAT TIM REYNOLDS, ABE NEMETH, JOE O'BRIAN, LEW PETERS, NICK GREY AND I HAVE SOLD ALL RIGHTS, TITLES AND INTERESTS TO THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS MITCHELLS RUN TO KING LOGUS IN CONSIDERATION OF \$20,000. BLINKER, YOU MAY NOW LET MR. MITCHELL JOIN HIS FRIENDS!

BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME! YOU PROMISED!



YEAH, WE PROMISED SO DON'T BELIEVE US NEXT TIME! HEY CHICORY GOT THAT COFFEE READY?

YEAH—A WHOLE POT—FULL! COME AND GET IT!



CHICORY HAS A KNACK FOR MAKIN' GOOD COFFEE, LIKE YOU GOT A KNACK FOR FINDIN' BAEY PICKINS! WHAT'S NEXT ON THE LEFT, KING?

I DON'T KNOW, BLINKER! WE'VE DONE VERY WELL IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS! A RANCH, A LEAD MINE, A HOTEL, A GAMBLING SALOON. NOW THE GOLD STRIKE!



AS FOR NEW BUSINESS OUR GOOD FRIEND JAKE KENDERSON, IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR A NEW LEAD! HAW... YOU'RE RIGHT EXCELLENT COFFEE, CHICORY.

YOU AIN'T TASTED NOTHING! YET, BOSS! WAIT'LL WE SETTLE DOWN! I'LL ORDER THE BEST BEANS STRAIGHT FROM BRAZIL, THEN YOU'LL TASTE SOMETHIN'! TILL THEN THIS STUFF AIN'T NOTHING! BUT LOUEN OLD CHICORY!



THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE TOWN OF BROWN VALLEY...

GOT ANOTHER CLAIM FOR YOU, JAKE! SEEMS MR LOGUS BOUGHT OUT ANOTHER OUTFIT!

LET ME GUESS WHICH ONE? MITCHELLS RUN! I'LL BET YOU BOUGHT OUT WESLEY MITCHELL, MR. LOGUS!

YOU'RE A MIND READER, JAKE, I DID!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



SOMEWHERE OUT WEST, I BELIEVE! SPEAKING OF THE WEST, JAKE, WE HAVEN'T LOOKED AROUND THE TERRITORY OF BROWN VALLEY! ANY INTERESTING CLAIMS THEREABOUTS?

WHY, UH, YES! THERE IS, MR. LOGUS! I WAS GOING TO MENTION IT THE DAY I TOLD YOU ABOUT WESLEY MITCHELL BEING ANXIOUS TO SELL OUT HIS GOLD HOLDINGS! SEEMS THERE'S A SILVER MINE THEY CALL ARGOSY SILVER INCORPORATED!

SILVER? WE AIN'T DONE MUCH DABBLIN' IN SILVER YET! RIGHT, MR. LOGUS?

QUITE RIGHT, BLINKER! WHO'S 'THEY' JAKE?

DAN FOLEY, HIS MISSUS AND THEIR YOUNG DAUGHTER, EMILY! DAN AIN'T FINDING IT TOO EASY WORKING THE MINE! HE'S GETTING ON IN YEARS!

THEN FOLEY MIGHT BE RIPE FOR A BUSINESS PROPOSITION!



A MONTH LATER, AS BOB VALE, THE BLACK DIAMOND, AND BUMPER RIDE IN THE DIRECTION OF BROWN VALLEY...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THEY'RE OUT OF SIGHT! IT'S EASY WHEN YOU SURPRISE 'EM, BUT TURN YOUR BACK ON THE YELLOW RATTLE-SNAKES AND YOU'RE A GONER!

I'M NOT SO SURE THINGS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE SO EASY! REMEMBER, WE'RE THE ONES ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW!



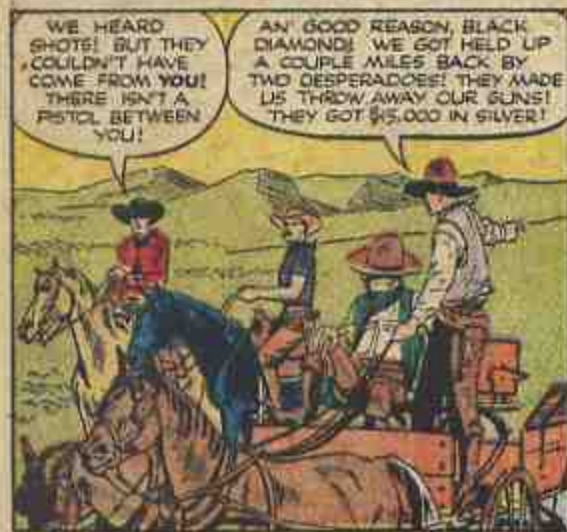
LOOK, BUMPER! A WAGON-RACING LIKE THE DEVIL WAS CHASING IT!

I'D SAY THE DEVILS WERE ON IT! THEY'RE A TOUGH LOOKING PAIR OF HOMBRES!



HEY! SLOW DOWN! COWPOKES COMIN'!

COWPOKES? ARE YOU CRAZY! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND! HE'LL HELP US! WHOA, BOY! WHOA, BOY!



WE HEARD SHOTS! BUT THEY COULDN'T HAVE COME FROM YOU! THERE ISN'T A PISTOL BETWEEN YOU!

AN GOOD REASON, BLACK DIAMOND! WE GOT HELD UP A COUPLE MILES BACK BY TWO DESPERADOES! THEY MADE US THROW AWAY OUR GUNS! THEY GOT \$5,000 IN SILVER!



SHORTLY AFTER, NEAR THE SCENE OF THE HOLDUP...

THESE HIGHWAYMEN LEFT TRACKS AS CLEAR AS CREEK WATER! LOOK, THEY'RE ON FOOT NOW! THEY'VE LOADED THE SILVER ON THEIR HORSES!

THAT'S GOOD FOR US! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE CATCH 'EM!



THERE THEY ARE BOB!

FIRE A FEW SHOTS, BUMPER! THAT'LL THROW A FRIGHT INTO 'EM!

SOME-BODY'S AFTER US! FIRE BACK QUICKLY!

NO! DON'T SHOOT! THAT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND! WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM! HE'S DONE TOO MANY GOOD TURNS FOR HONEST PEOPLE!



WE'VE GOT TO SURRENDER! MAYBE INSTEAD OF HARMING US, HE'LL HELP US! ALL RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND, YOU'VE GOT US!

THEY'RE TWO MIGHTY PECULIAR-BEHAVING OUTLAWS TO SURRENDER SO QUICKLY, WHEN THEY FACE CERTAIN CONVICTION!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

I'D NEVER KILLED A LIVING THING BEFORE! BUT THAT DAY I SHOT A MAN! IT WAS HORRIBLE! BUT THE GUARD TRIED TO KILL MY MOTHER! I JUST PULLED THE TRIGGER!



EEA AAA!



WE ESCAPED BUT WE SAW NO SIGNS OF ANY BODIES! MOTHER THINKS DAD AND THE REST WERE BURIED IN A BOG TWO MILES BACK OF THE RIVER!

DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE SHERIFF ABOUT THIS?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN BROWN VALLEY HE'S ON KING LOGUS' PAYROLL! SO IS THAT LITTLE RUNT KENDERSON, IN THE COUNTY CLAIMS OFFICE!



IN FACT, WHEN WE WENT TO BROWN VALLEY TO COMPLAIN, THEY SAID WE WERE THE OUTLAWS!



THIS WOMAN IS CRAZY, SHERIFF! HERE'S THE BILL OF TRANSFER DAN FOLEY SIGNED—ALL LEGAL AND PROPER AND THE MINE FREE AND CLEAR! BUT WE GOT THE CORPSE MISS EMILY FOLEY SHOT IN COLD BLOOD!

SO THAT'S IT! YOU COYOTES! YOU'RE TRYING TO PIN A MURDER ON US! I GOT A GUN AIMED AT YOU, LOGUS! LET US LEAVE IN PEACE OR YOU DIE!



IS IT ANY WONDER WE TRIED TO GET EVEN, WITH LOGUS BY STEALING THE SILVER HE TOOK OUT OF MY DAD'S MINE?

MY HAT'S OFF TO BOTH OF YOU! IT TAKES GREAT COURAGE TO STAND UP TO LOGUS! BUT YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO TURN TO CRIME YOURSELVES!

HAVE A HEART, BLACK DIAMOND! YOU HEARD WHAT MRS. FOLEY SAID! THE SHERIFF WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH LOGUS!

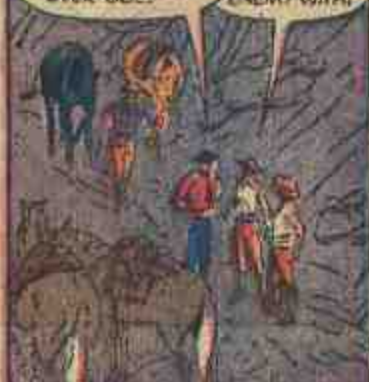


THEN MRS. FOLEY SHOULD'VE GONE TO CRIPPLED RIVER COUNTY TO SEEK JUSTICE! MOST MEN KNOW KING LOGUS FOR A DIRTY KILLER! THEY'D HAVE TAKEN YOUR SIDE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND! BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US NOW—PUT US IN JAIL?

NO, I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU GET YOUR MINE BACK AND THAT KING LOGUS AND HIS PACK OF COYOTES GET A NECK-STRETCHING THAT'S LONG OVER-DUE!

'BLACK DIAMOND—WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, I FEEL WE'VE GOT AN ARMY TO FIGHT THE ENEMY WITH!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

GOOD FOR YOU, BLACK DIAMOND! I SEE YOU CAUGHT THOSE NASTY OUTLAWS!

WE SURE DID! GET 'EM UP! WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE SHERIFF OF CRIPPLED RIVER!

YOU AIN'T SERIOUS! YOU'RE JOKIN' AIN'T YOU?



RIGHT! AND HERE'S THE CREAM OF THE JEST! MRS. FOLEY, SHOW THE FOLEY CATS WHO YOU ARE!

MRS. FOLEY... AN HER DAUGHTER! THEY WAS THE OUTLAWS! GASP? WE SURRENDERED TO TWO FEMALES!



THAT EVENING, OVER THE COUNTY LINE IN CRIPPLED RIVER...

YOU CAN'T TOUCH US! KING LOGUS IS TOO BIG! HE WON'T LET US STAY IN HERE LONG!

YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE IN CRIPPLED RIVER VALLEY TILL WE SEND FOR YOU!

BUT WE WANT TO GO WITH YOU, BLACK DIAMOND! I WANT TO PUT LOGUS WHERE HE BELONGS!

YOU WILL, MRS. FOLEY! BUT YOU AND EMILY ARE THE ONLY LIVING WITNESSES TO LOGUS' CRIMES! THAT'S WHY I WANT SHERIFF BRINES TO LOOK AFTER YOU!

HE'S RIGHT, MOTHER! BESIDES, YOU NEED REST!

I' RECKON THAT'S SOUND ADVICE, BUT... BLACK DIAMOND, PLEASE, LET'S HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, BLACK DIAMOND!

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET, MISS EMILY! BY THE WAY, THAT SILVER WAS PUT IN THE BANK IN ESCROW! AFTER WE SETTLE WITH LOGUS, YOU CAN LAY CLAIM TO IT!

WE'D BETTER GET MOVING, DIAMOND, IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND THAT PHOTOGRAPHER'S SHOP OPEN! THEY CLOSE UP EARLY HEREABOUTS!

IN THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S SHOP...

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS! I KNOW SOME DANDY NATURE SCENES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!

SO DO WE, MISTER! THEY'RE ALL UNDERGROUND!

WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY LOGUS' ALIBI ABOUT THERE BEING NO CORPUS DELECTI! YOU'LL DIG UP THE CORPSES, BUMPER, AND I'LL PHOTOGRAPH THEM! I'M SURE THAT IF WE DIG IN THE VICINITY OF LOGUS' NEW PROPERTIES, WE'LL FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE IN BROWN VALLEY THE NEXT MORNING...

NO! YOU CANNOT SEE MY OFFICIAL RECORDS!

ANYBODY COMIN', BUMPER!

NOPE! COAST IS CLEAR!

GOT HIM, BUMPER!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW! PUT ME DOWN!

PASS THE HEAP, DIAMOND!

ONE THING IS CLEAR! SOMEBODY TIPPED LOGUS OFF AS TO WHAT PROPERTIES TO MOVE IN ON BECAUSE LOGUS HIT PAY DIRT EVERY TIME THAT TIPSTER WAS YOU, MENDERSON!

THE SHERIFF IS COMING, DIAMOND! HE LOOKS SORE! HE PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT OUR JAILING LOGUS' RALS IN CRIPPLED RIVER!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



SHERIFF WE'RE JUST BORROWING THE RECORDS ON KING LOGUS! LOGUS IS A CROOK AND MURDERER!

THAT'S RIGHT! LOGUS SHOULD'VE BEEN HANGED YEARS AGO!

WELL, I'M THE LAW HERE IN BROWN VALLEY AN' I SAY LUTIE KENDERSON AND PUT THAT BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!

AND I'M A ROVING U.S. MARSHAL WITH AUTHORITY EVERYWHERE! AND I SAY IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M DOING, DRAW ON ME!

I AIN'T CRAZY, BLACK DIAMOND, BUT I'LL REMEMBER THIS! AN' I'LL GIT YOU ANOTHER TIME!

SURE, SHERIFF—WHEN HIS BACK IS TURNED! COME ON, BLACK DIAMOND! WE GOT WORK TO DO!



BLACK DIAMOND! LOOK OUT! THE SHERIFF'S GOING FOR HIS GUN!



WHOO! THAT BUSTED WING IS JUST A WARNING, GREASE TAIL! THE HAPPY DAYS OF LOGUS' CLAIM JUMPING ARE OVER! THE DAY OF RECKONING IS HERE! PASS THE WORD TO LOGUS!



LATER, IN KING LOGUS' SILVER DOLLAR SALOON...

BARTENDER, EVERY TIME LOGUS "BOUGHT" PROPERTY THE ORIGINAL OWNER DISAPPEARED! NED HARWEL OWNED THIS SALOON TILL TWO MONTHS AGO! HE DISAPPEARED, BUT NOBODY SAW HIM LEAVE, SO MAYBE HE'S STILL HERE, IN THE CELLAR! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

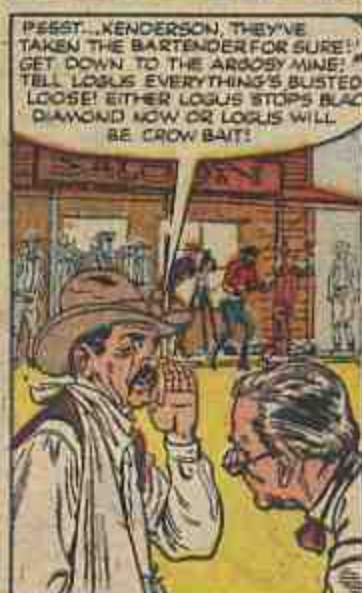


AFTER TWENTY MINUTES OF DIGGING IN THE CELLAR OF THE SALOON...

TAKE A GOOD LOOK! IS THAT NED HARWEL?

YES, BUT I... I... DIDN'T KILL HIM! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS! HONEST!

HERE HE IS!



PEEST... KENDERSON, THEY'VE TAKEN THE BARTENDER FOR SURE! GET DOWN TO THE ARGOSY MINE! TELL LOGUS EVERYTHING'S BUSTED LOOSE! EITHER LOGUS STOPS BLACK DIAMOND NOW OR LOGUS WILL BE CROW BAIT!



THAT AFTERNOON AT LOGUS' NEW RANCH, THE BAR C...

JIM FAUNTREE, HIS WIFE AND HIS FOREMAN! ALL KILLED! IT'S HORRIBLE!

I WON'T BE SATISFIED TILL I SEE KING LOGUS AND HIS WHOLE MURDERING GANG PAY FOR THIS WITH THEIR OWN NECKS!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

TWILIGHT THE SAME DAY ON THE BUCHANAN RANCH...



WHO ELSE NEEDS A SHOT IN THE ARM TO TELL US WHERE LOUIS BURIED BUCHANAN!

OKAY, BLACK DIAMOND! BUT WE HAD NO PART IN THE SHOOTING! WE WERE BROUGHT IN AFTER THE SHOOTING WAS OVER!

EARLY NEXT MORNING NEAR MITCHELL RUN...



LOUSY CHICORY! I PUT IN AN ORDER FOR REAL COFFEE A MONTH AGO... AN' STILL NO SIGN OF A SHIPMENT! ARE WE GOIN' TO GET THAT COFFEE KING?

FOOL, WE WON'T BE ALIVE TO DRINK THAT COFFEE UNLESS WE TAKE CARE OF BLACK DIAMOND! THERE COMES BUNKER!



KING! THE BLACK DIAMOND JUST DUG OUT WES MITCHELL! HE GOT THE DROP ON THE BOYS AND THEY'RE ALL OBEYING HIM!

ONE CORPUS DELECT! 'S ENOUGH TO HANG THE THREE OF US! MEN, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THE BLACK DIAMOND! RIGHT NOW! HE MUST NOT LEAVE MITCHELL RUN ALIVE. UNDERSTAND?



BLACK DIAMOND, IT'S LOUIS!

I'LL GIVE HIM A RUN FOR HIS MONEY! MOUNT EL LOBO! THESE COYOTES CAN SHOOT A MAN IN THE BACK BUT HITTING A MOVING TARGET IS SOMETHING ELSE!



CURSE IT - THEY'RE COMING BACK - GET OFF YOUR HORSES! WE'LL FIGHT FROM AMBUSH! CHICORY, YOU RUN FOR THE OTHERS!

PULL UP, BUMPER! WE'RE OUT OF THEIR BULLET RANGE! WE WANT THESE GUYS! LET'S GO GET THEM! CHARGE HEAD ON AND WHEN WE COME WITHIN RANGE, SPLIT AND ORCLE THEM INDIAN STYLE - ON RELIAPAN!



AFTER A BRIEF SKIRMISH... YOU GOT US, DIAMOND! DON'T SHOOT NO MORE! WE GIVE UP!

OH... MY GUN, HAND!

I'VE GOT NO PITY FOR THE TWO OF YOU! YOU MURDERED DOZENS OF PEOPLE IN COLD BLOOD, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT YOU DOWN! THE LAW WILL DO THAT! WE'LL CATCH UP LATER WITH THE THIRD VAMPIRE WHO GOT AWAY!



YOU MIGHT HAVE THE UPPER HAND NOW, BUT DON'T THINK THAT I'M FINISHED! YOU WON'T HANG ME, BLACK DIAMOND! THE DEAD DON'T TALK AND MY OWN MEN WON'T SQUEAL BECAUSE THEY'D ALL GET IT IN THE END!

I'VE GOT TWO LIVING WITNESSES, LOUIS! THEY SAW YOU IN THE ACT OF BUTCHERY AND THEY'RE GOING TO SEE YOU HANG FOR IT!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

YOU KNOW WHO HE MEANS, DON'T YOU? MRS. FOLEY AND HER DAUGHTER! IF THEY TURN UP IN COURT TO TESTIFY AGAINST US WE'RE BLIZZARD MEAT!

I KNOW! THAT'S WHY CHICORY WILL HAVE A "JOB" TO DO WHEN HE GETS TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER BOYS! THE GALS MUST TRAVEL TO BROWN VALLEY TO TESTIFY AGAINST US! MAYBE THEIR STAGECOACH WON'T REACH BROWN VALLEY! UNDERSTAND!

LATE THAT AFTERNOON...

WE ATTENDED TO EVERYTHING, LOGUS! THERE'S A CLIFF TURN ON THE STAGE RUN FROM CRIPPLED RIVER! CHICORY FIXED THE ROAD, SO THE STAGE WILL FALL TO THE BOTTOM OF CRIPPLED RIVER CANYON!

GOOD! BUT JUST IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG, I WANT CHICORY AND THE BOYS TO BE HERE TONIGHT TO RESCUE US! I'VE FIGURED ALL THE ANGLES! THAT'S WHY I'VE CHEATED THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE SO MANY TIMES!

SHORTLY AFTER...

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S SET FOR THE TRIAL, BLACK DIAMOND! THE SHERIFF'S IN JAIL, THE TOWN'S RUN BY A CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE! THE GALS ARE ON THEIR WAY NOW FROM CRIPPLED RIVER TO (SHE EVIDENCE)

AND YET LOGUS IS SMILING AS IF HE HAD AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE! WHAT CAN THAT ACE BE? WE'VE GOT THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE VICTIMS.

THE WOMEN! IF THEY DON'T TESTIFY, THERE ARE NO WITNESSES! LOGUS MUST HAVE A PLAN TO KILL THEM! O'MON! BUMPER, LET'S SEE THAT NOTHING WILL PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING TO BROWN VALLEY!

AN HOUR LATER, NEAR CRIPPLED RIVER CANYON...

IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS, IT'LL BE ALL OVER! THE GROUND WILL GIVE WAY AND THE STAGECOACH WILL BE 800 FEET BELOW!

THERE SHE GOES NOW!

THE ROAD'S GONE! WHY? LOOK OUT!

YIPPEE!

BUT NATURE IS CAPRICIOUS! A HOOK OF ROCK SUDDENLY UP THRUSTS ITSELF IN TIME TO CATCH IN FRONT OF THE REAR AXLE! THE DOWNWARD PLUNGE OF THE HORSES AND COACH IS ARRESTED.

WE'RE DOOMED! NO! A JUTTING PIECE OF ROCK! IT'S HOLDING THE COACH!

A MINUTE LATER, AS THE STAGECOACH TESTERS ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER...

DON'T MOVE UP THERE! REMAIN ABSOLUTELY STILL! WE'RE COMING UP TO GET YOU!

LOOK UP THERE, DIAMOND! PART OF LOGUS' GANG! WE CAN'T TACKLE THE STAGECOACH WITH OUR BACKS TURNED TO THEM!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AFTER A FEW EXCHANGES OF GUN SHOTS...



I'VE GOT AN IDEA! THEIR BEING HERE CAN HELP US! ONLY HORSE POWER CAN PULL THAT STAGE BACK TO FIRM GROUND! BUMPER CAPTURE AS MANY HORSES AS YOU CAN!

I'D BETTER PLAY IT SAFE! I'M HEADIN' BACK TO RESCUE LOGUS! YOU GUYS KEEP THE BLACK DIAMOND BUSY!

CHICORY! THAT YELLOW GREASEY TAIL-HEE! RUNNING OUT ON US! WELL I AIN'T GVIN' FOR NOBODY!



YOU BIZZARDS HAVE ONE CHANGE - TO BEAT THE GALLOWES IF YOU LINK UP YOUR HORSES AND CONNECT A TOW-LINE TO THE REAL AXLE OF THAT STAGE. I GIVE YOU MY PROMISE TO GO EASY ON YOU IN COURT!

REGGARS AIN'T CHIDDERE! IT'S A DEAL!

MAKE IT FAST! THAT ROCK WON'T HOLD FOREVER!



FIVE MINUTES LATER, WITH THE MIGHTY RELIAPON AND EL LOBO TO SET THE PLACE...

COWBOY, RELIAPON, GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!

PULL EL LOBO PULL!

THE COACH IS MOVIN! THANK HEAVENS! WE'RE OFF! THE ROCK! CASP!



AFTER GREAT KICKING AND PAWING OF THE ANIMALS, THE COACH IS DRAWN TO SAFETY...

WE MADE IT! I WAS SURE WE WERE GONNERS!

WHERE'D THE REST OF YOUR BUNCH GO?

TO RESCUE LOGUS! I'M TELLIN' YOU BECAUSE IF I HAV TO GO TO JAIL, I WANT THAT LOGUS TO GET ME, TOO!



WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER! MISS EARLY, YOU STAY HERE! THE COACH DRIVERS WILL WATCH THE OUTLAWS FOR US TILL WE GET BACK!

BUT, DIAMOND, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE KING LOGUS IS SPRUNG THROUGH A GALLOWES TRAP SUNDAY MORNING!



A HALF HOUR LATER, BECAUSE OF RELIAPON AND EL LOBO'S INCREDIBLE SPEED, CHICORY AND HIS FELLOW RATS ARE OVERTAKEN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

KILL THE MEDDLIN' SKUN... ARGHH!

WE'RE SUNK! THEY'VE GOT CHICORY!

THEY'RE THROUGH BUMPER! CLEAN UP ON 'EM FOR GOOD!



WELL, IT'S ALL OVER, LOGUS! YOUR MURDER TRIAL WINDS UP AT THE STEP OF THE GALLOWES! CHICORY DALLS IS DEAD, SO ARE ALL YOUR SCHEMES!

NO! YOU CAN'T HANG ME! YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN'T!



HERE'S CHICORY'S COFFEE! ALL THE WAY FROM BRAZIL! WON'T DO HIM AND HIS PALE ANY GOOD WHERE THEY ARE!

MAYBE IF WE TAKE IT TO THE ARGOSY WINE, MISS EARLY WILL BREW US A CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE WE MOVE ON!

THE END

QUICK

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GET A COMPLETE SET OF LEV GLEASON
COMICS PICTURE TRADING CARDS!

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FREE!

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**SENT TO YOU
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IT'S EASY!



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YOU WILL FIND A SPECIAL TRADING CARD COUPON ON THE TOP OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THESE COUPONS WILL BE FOUND IN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING LEV GLEASON COMICS: CRIME DOES NOT PAY, BOY, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, DAREDEVIL AND BLACK DIAMOND.

JUST SEND US **TWO** OF THESE COUPONS AND WE WILL SEND YOU **FREE** ONE SET OF TRADING CARDS. YOU CAN PICK YOUR OWN SETS. THEY ARE LISTED IN THE BOX ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE. THERE ARE 5 SETS IN ALL. COLLECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE. JUST REMEMBER TO SEND TWO COUPONS FOR EACH SET. TAKE THE COUPONS FROM ANY OF THE LEV GLEASON COMICS MENTIONED ABOVE (CRIME DOES NOT PAY, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, DAREDEVIL, BOY AND BLACK DIAMOND). THEY WILL ALL HAVE COUPONS, WAITING FOR YOU, ON THE FIRST PAGE OF EVERY ISSUE.



HERE ARE THE SETS

When you send your coupons, choose the set or sets you want. Order them by number — but each set is COMPLETE and cards in each set CANNOT be changed. Order more sets if you want more cards.



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SET NO. 3
CHIP GARDNER
BUMPER
CURLY

SET NO. 2
WISE GUYS GROUP
CRIMEBUSTER
AND SQUEEKS
RELIAPON

SET NO. 4
SCARECROW
DAREDEVIL
DILLY DUNCAN

SET NO. 5
BLACK DIAMOND AND RELIAPON
SQUEEKS
HOT ROCK FLANAGAN

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE COUPON YOU NEED TO GET YOUR TRADING CARDS. YOU WILL FIND IT ON THE FIRST INSIDE PAGE OF JACK MAGAZINE. THIS SAMPLE COUPON HAS NO VALUE. DON'T USE IT.



SAMPLE COUPON

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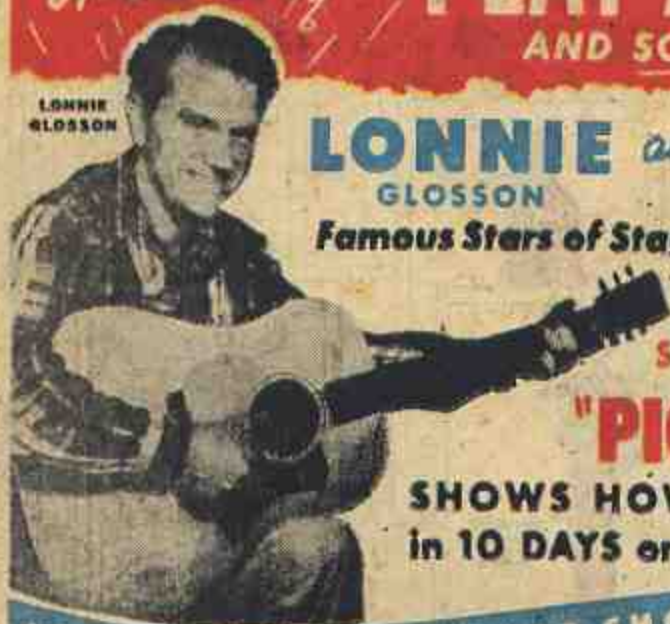
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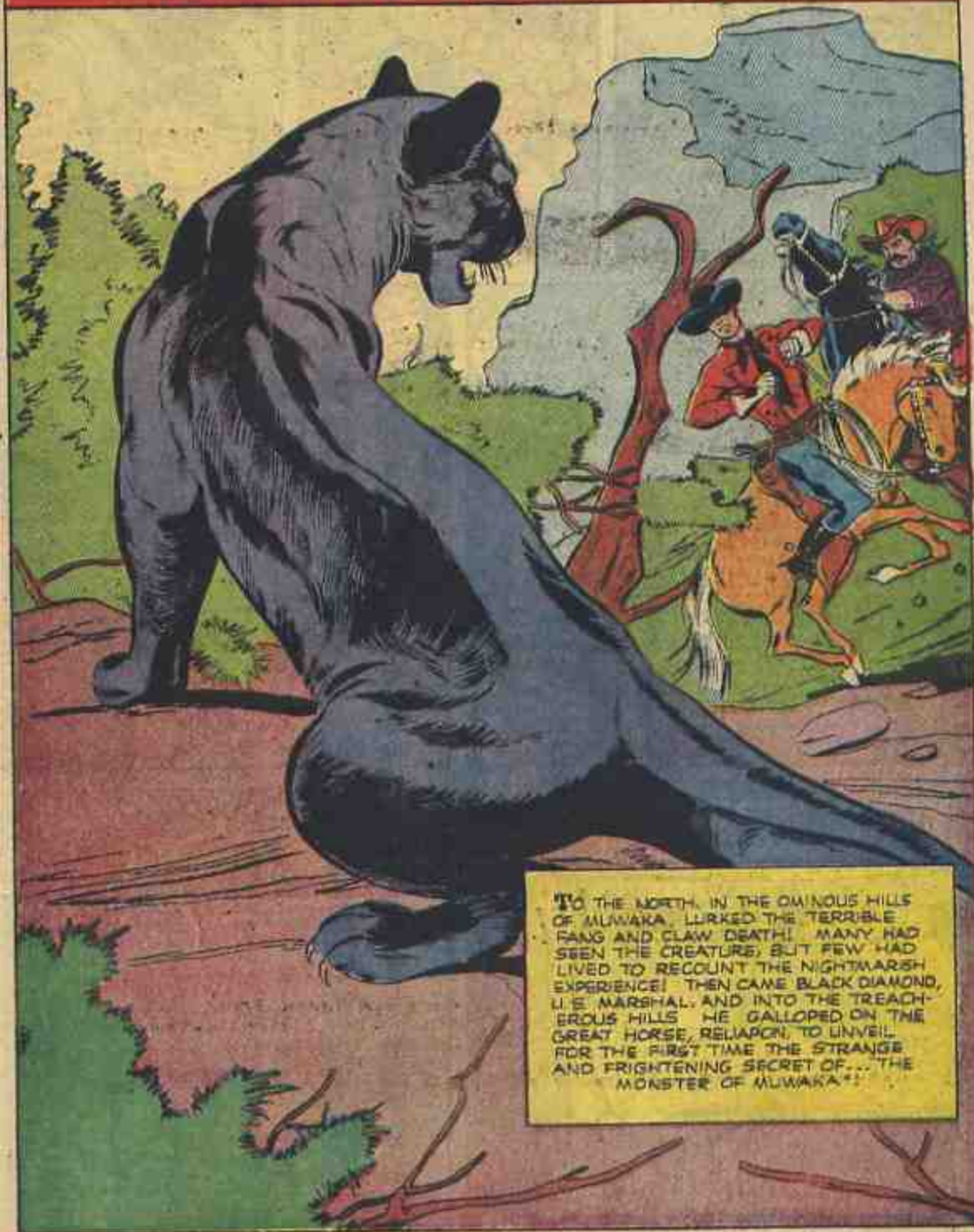
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BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BLACK DIAMOND

meets "THE MONSTER OF MUWAKA"



TO THE NORTH, IN THE OMINOUS HILLS OF MUWAKA, LURKED THE TERRIBLE FANG AND CLAW DEATH! MANY HAD SEEN THE CREATURE, BUT FEW HAD LIVED TO RECOUNT THE NIGHTMARISH EXPERIENCE! THEN CAME BLACK DIAMOND, U.S. MARSHAL, AND INTO THE TREACHEROUS HILLS HE GALLOPED ON THE GREAT HORSE, RELAPON, TO UNVEIL FOR THE FIRST TIME THE STRANGE AND FRIGHTENING SECRET OF... THE MONSTER OF MUWAKA!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AS NIGHT APPROACHES, TWO RIDERS ENTER AN INDIAN VILLAGE...

HMM... THESE INDIANS SEEM FRIENDLY ENOUGH, BLACK DIAMOND!

YES... OR WE'D HAVE HAD TROUBLE GETTING THIS FAR! LET'S DISMOUNT!

WE'D LIKE TO BUY FOOD FOR OURSELVES AND OUR HORSES! OUR SUPPLIES ARE GONE, AND WE HAVE A LONG RIDE AHEAD TO JASONVILLE!

FOOD WE GIVE, MY FRIENDS! WE DO NOT SELL! WELCOME TO IT AND TO A PLACE TO REST THIS NIGHT!

THANKS— WE'LL RIDE ON! THERE ARE SOME HILLS YONDER, AND WE MUST TRAVEL ALL NIGHT!

THEN YOU DON'T KNOW THIS COUNTRY, FOR IF YOU DID, YOU WOULD NOT CROSS THE HILLS AT NIGHT!



WHY NOT?

THEY ARE THE MUWAKA HILLS, AND IN THEM LURKS THE AGELESS DEVIL, THE MONSTER OF MUWAKA! HE KILLS ANY MAN WHO TRAVELS THERE!

HUH? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?



COME... IT IS TIME TO GATHER AT THE COUNCIL FIRE AND RECOUNT LEGENDS OF OLD! YOU SHALL HEAR ALL ABOUT THE MONSTER OF MUWAKA!



HUNDREDS OF MOONS AGO, WHEN THE GREAT MYSTERY PUT THE FIRST WARRIORS ON THIS LAND, FOOD AND GAME WERE PLENTIFUL, AND ALL TRIBES LIVED IN PEACE...



IN ALL THE LAND THERE WAS BUT ONE EVIL MAN... RUNNING COUGAR, THE MAGIC MEDICINE MAN! HE SOUGHT TO RULE OVER ALL TRIBES...

YES, I SHALL MAKE TRIBE WAR AGAINST TRIBE! I SHALL MAKE BROTHER FIGHT BROTHER... THEN WHEN THEY ARE WEAKENED BY BATTLES I SHALL RULE OVER ALL!





THEN RUNNING COUGAR WENT TO EACH OF THE GREAT CHIEFS... AND TO EACH HE LIED ABOUT THE OTHER...

THEY PLAN TO KILL YOU! I HEARD ALL...

LISTEN... I MUST WARN YOU!

ALREADY THE OTHERS PLOT TO WIPE OUT YOUR LANDS!



BROTHER ROSE TO FIGHT BROTHER! THE FIRST GREAT WAR STARTED...



VILLAGES WERE SACKED AND LOOTED... MANY HUNDREDS OF OUR PEOPLE DIED AT THE HANDS OF EACH OTHER...

ALL GOES WELL! MY PLAN IS WORKING TO PERFECTION!



BUT THEN, BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE, EVIL RUNNING COUGAR WAS FOUND OUT...

MY BROTHER CHIEF AND I MET AND TALKED! NOW WE BOTH KNOW HOW YOU LIED... HOW YOU SET US AGAINST EACH OTHER!



I SHOULD SLAY YOU HERE ON THE SPOT! BUT YOU SHALL MEET YOUR END AS THE LAW REQUIRES! LEH! OUTSIDE WITH THIS VIPER! QUICKLY... BEFORE I FORGET THE LAW!



AND THEN, AS THE LAW OF ALL THE TRIBES REQUIRED, EVIL RUNNING COUGAR WAS TAKEN TO THE HEIGHTS AND CAST INTO A VOLCANO PIT...

REVENGE! I'LL GET REVENGE! I'LL COME BACK AND BE A CURSE ON ALL MANKIND!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THEN...AS IF CAUSED BY AN ACT OF EVIL MAGIC THE LONG-DEAD VOLCANO SUDDENLY CAME TO LIFE IN A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION...

WHRO-O-O-O-OSH!

...AND IT IS SAID IN THE LEGENDS THAT RUNNING COUGAR REAPPEARED... NOT AS A MAN, BUT AS A GIANT CAT!

THE ANCIENTS SAID IN THEIR LEGENDS THAT THE MONSTER KILLED TEN THOUSAND WARRIORS BEFORE HE RETREATED INTO THE HILLS, THERE TO LIVE FOREVER...

AND TO THIS DAY, HUNDREDS OF MOONS LATER, THE MONSTER OF ALUWAKA STILL STALKS THE HILLS BY NIGHT, PUTTING TO DEATH ANY WHO INVADE HIS REALM!

WOW! THAT SURE SENDS CHILLS UP YOUR SPINE!

OF COURSE, IT'S JUST A LEGEND! THAT SORT OF THING NEVER REALLY HAPPENED! WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT KEEP US HERE ALL NIGHT, ARE WE, DIAMOND?

THE LEGEND! NO! BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE OUR HOSTS—THEY'RE GIVING US FOOD AND SHELTER! IF THEY WISH US TO STAY TILL MORNING, WE WILL!

EARLY THE NEXT DAY...

1. I HOPE THEY'RE HAPPY! THEY THINK THEY SAVED OUR LIVES BY KEEPIN' US THERE ALL NIGHT! CONFOUND THAT SILLY LEGEND ABOUT A GIANT COUGAR!

2. I WOULDN'T CALL THE LEGEND SILLY, BUMPER!

HUH? YOU MEAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

NO...NOT AS IT WAS TOLD! BUT INDIAN LEGENDS CARRY CERTAIN SYMBOLIC MEANINGS! SOMETIMES THEY MAY GET A LITTLE TOO WILD...BUT THE MEANING IS STILL THERE! ANYWAY, WE'LL FORGET THE "GIANT COUGAR" FOR NOW!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN







FIRST, I WANT TO GET A LISTING OF ALL THE COUGAR'S VICTIMS! THEY'LL HAVE IT HERE AT THE COURT-HOUSE!



I SEE...RYAN MAKES THE FOURTEENTH VICTIM! THEY WERE ALL TRAPPERS AND PROSPECTORS! AND EACH WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE MUWAKA HILLS...KILLED BY THE GIANT COUGAR!



SO FAR WE'VE SOLVED NOTHING!

WRONG, BUMPER! THE PATTERN IS VERY CLEAR TO ME NOW! OUR NEXT MOVE IS TO BUY SOME SUPPLIES! AND DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS IN FRONT OF ANYBODY! JUST GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER I DO!



GUESS WE'LL NEED THOSE SUPPLIES NOW, MR. HILLER!

FINE! COME RIGHT IN! I'VE GOT A WIDE SELECTION OF THINGS AT DIRT CHEAP PRICES!



LET'S SEE... SOME EMPTY BAGS, SHOVELS, PICKS, AND GRUB! THAT'LL DO IT, MR. HILLER!

YOU'VE GOT ONLY ENOUGH GRUB FOR ONE DAY! IS THAT ALL YOU WANT?



YES... WE'LL ONLY BE GONE ONE DAY! WE RAN INTO SOME GOLD AT OUR CLAIM UP IN MUWAKA COUNTRY! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DIG IT OUT AND CARRY IT BACK!

WELL! THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR! MAYBE ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL TURN PROSPECTOR AND STRIKE IT RICH! ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK TO YOU!



LATE AFTERNOON, DEEP IN THE MUWAKA HILLS.

GOLD CLAIM! BAN! HERE WE ARE DIGGING NOTHING BUT DIRT, CLAY AND SAND! DIAMOND, I DON'T FOLLOW YOU!

BUT MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE IS! NOW START FILLING THE BAGS WITH DIRT!



LET'S SEE...WE SPEND GOOD MONEY FOR PICKS AND SHOVELS! WE COME WAY OUT HERE AND DIG UP DIRT...AND CARRY IT BACK TO TOWN! HO HUM...I'M A LITTLE CUCKOOD!

WE'RE AFTER A KILLER, BUMPER! THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CATCH THEM! THIS IS MY WAY! HMM...IT SHOULD BE BACK SOON! I HOPE MY TIMING IS RIGHT...



AS THEY WEND THEIR WAY OVER THE GAUNT, GLOOMY HILLS, THE SUN SETS FAR TO THE WEST...

AT LEAST WE'VE GOT A FULL MOON TONIGHT! I WONDER IF THE COUGAR PROWLs BY MOONLIGHT?

IF SO, WE'LL KNOW VERY SHORTLY!



FROM NOW ON I'M DEPENDING UPON RELIAPON! STAY ON GUARD, BOY! WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MISTAKE!

I KEEP GETTING A CREEPY FEELING, THAT WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED!



DIAMOND! LOOK! THE GIANT COUGAR!

AND NOT A WHINY OUT OF RELIAPON!



IF THERE WAS A COUGAR, RELIAPON WOULD'VE CAUGHT ITS ODOR! HOWEVER, THERE IS A MAN! LOOK OUT, BUMPER!



I'LL BLAST THE RIFLE FROM HIS HANDS...

BLAM!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



I'LL KILL YOU... UHHH!

AND THIS ENDS THE MONSTER OF MUJAWAK!



HE'S OUT COLD! I'LL TIE HIM UP!

AND WITH A LIGHT ON IN HERE, WE CAN DO A LITTLE CHECKING UP! HMM... WHAT'S THIS GADGET? A CUTOUT OF A COUGAR... AND A TINY OIL LAMP INSIDE!



NOW... I LIGHT THE TINY WICK THE TINY CUTOUT IS GREATLY MAGNIFIED BY A LENS... AND THERE YOU SEE YOUR MONSTER - A SHADOW!

THAT'S HOW HE WORKED IT!



CERTAINLY! THE VICTIMS WOULD SEE THE SHADOW, GET SHOCKED MOMENTARILY... THEN, WHEN THEY WERE OFF-GUARD, HILLER SHOT THEM! HE GOT THEIR GOLD AND FURS AND KEPT IT HERE IN THE CAVE!



AND HILLER KNEW JUST WHEN THE PROSPECTORS AND TRAPPERS WERE OUT HERE, BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONE WHO SOLD THEM SUPPLIES!

YES... HE MADE HIS PRICES LOW... AS A BAIT... SO THEY ALL BOUGHT FROM HIM! THEN HE'D GET ALL THE INFORMATION HE NEEDED FROM THEM... THEN KILLED THEM!



IT'S ALL SIMPLE WHEN IT'S EXPLAINED LIKE THIS... BUT HOW DID YOU TUMBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE, DIAMOND?

THE TRAPPER'S BODY WE LOOKED AT GAVE ME THE CLUE! THERE WAS NO BLOOD FLOW FROM THE CLAW WOUNDS... MEANING HE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN KILLED BEFORE THEN! THAT'S WHEN I LOOKED FOR A BULLET... AND FOUND IT!



HMM... HE SURE HAD THINGS WORKED OUT WELL! HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE ANCIENT INDIAN LEGEND, AND BECAME A 'GIANT COUGAR'! PEOPLE ACTUALLY THOUGHT THE COUGAR DID THE KILLIN'S!

NOW THEY'LL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE MURDERS ARE ALL OVER WITH! HILLER WILL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM, AND... WELL, WE WILL WAIT FOR OUR NEXT CASE!

THE END

GEE what a build!
Didn't it take a long
time to get those muscles?

No SIR! - ATLAS
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FAST!

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The
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Man" in
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contest - he
competes
with
ALL MEN who
would consent to
appear against
him.

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A 'BRAND' NEW COW



HAL felt at home astride his palomino. Even though he was still considered a greenhorn among the cattle men he felt like a seasoned cowpuncher. Ever since he'd luckily landed at the X Bar I Ranch, after the long trek west and having left the disappointments of the east behind him, he'd felt completely at home. Even though this was his first roundup he felt that it was in his blood and he'd been born for this life.

Hal had looked forward to the roundup as if it were a final fulfillment of his initiation to the west. Now he was riding with the other punchers corralling the herds of the X Bar I back to the ranch. Miles they'd ridden and miles they had to return. The return to the ranch was the hardest as they had to drive the stubborn herd.

As he rode, driving the cattle before him, Hal looked at the blue sky, the mountains in the distance and realized that this was the life he'd been looking for. The air was clean, the life was clean and he could bury all his previous troubles.

Hal loved animals but he found cattle to be rather lacking in personality except for one calf in particular. In fact, he hated to admit his fondness for Maisie as every time he mentioned her, the other cowpunchers really gave him a razzing. However, Maisie was the first calf Hal had seen come into the world and at that she was a scrawny, puny thing and the odds had been against her. Hal nursed her along and she grew with the best of them. Inadvertently, a fondness for Maisie grew in Hal, and if it can be believed, Maisie, during her early months at the ranch followed Hal wherever she could and often where she was not supposed to.

Hal suffered through her branding as much as Maisie but after it was over Maisie came over to him as if to say it was all right, she understood. And now Hal was rounding up the cattle. His eyes scanned over the herd looking for Maisie and wondering

where she was. Of course, he realized she was a full fledged cow now and he might not recognize her.

All through the days of the roundup Hal had looked for Maisie, either to no avail or because she had grown to look like all the other cattle that carried the X Bar I brand. As they reached the last lap of the roundup Hal, in looking forward to the evening's revelry, had ceased to think of his favorite calf. It was a pleasant thought to anticipate the return to the ranch, the warm fires, the songs, the branding and the long awaited rest. Twilight descended as they corralled the herd and settled down for the evening.

The end of the roundup always called for celebration and feasting and Mr. Harvey, the owner of the X Bar I had prepared for the punchers' return and nothing was spared.

The next morning, with heavy heads, the punchers arose to settle down to the business of branding. Again Hal kept his eye out for Maisie but to all observation she was not among the herd.

Hal, after his set-to at branding the new and checking the brands of the old, sat astride the fence of the corral. Suddenly he jumped off the fence and ran to Mr. Harvey who was close at hand, pointed at one of the cows and said, "That brand, Mr. Harvey! We've rounded up someone else's cow. That's X Cross Plus. I've never seen that brand before."

"That's easily remedied, Hal," Mr. Harvey answered calmly. "All we have to do is find the X Cross Plus and just return the cattle we've rounded up by mistake."

As Hal looked around he noticed that there were about three cattle bearing the X Cross Plus brand, and he mentioned to Mr. Harvey. "That's pretty careless on our part, Mr. Harvey, to round up cattle that don't belong to us."

(Turn page for continuation of story)

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We Make No Claims . . .

We Want You To Use TRI-SON-OL
To Help Relieve Discomforts of ITCH and IRRITATION

YOU MUST BE PLEASED OR NO COST!

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We guarantee you, and you alone are the sole judge, as to the value of TRI-SON-OL. Only if you are pleased do you pay us the introductory price of \$1.98. If dissatisfied, do not return anything . . . just ask for your money back and we will make full refund immediately with no questions asked.

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We want everyone who suffers from discomforts due to externally caused pimples to use TRI-SON-OL without risking a single cent. All you have to do is sign your name and address to the coupon and drop it in the mail to us. We will send your TRI-SON-OL package (in plain wrapper) by return mail. Pay the postman only \$1.98, plus C.O.D. and postage charges. Use TRI-SON-OL 10 days and if you are not delighted, write and tell us so . . . return nothing . . . just write and we refund your money, including the postage charges. If you prefer to send \$2.00 now, you save the postage but enjoy the same money back guarantee.

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"Not necessarily, Hal," continued Mr. Harvey. "It happens all the time. But, you know, it is strange that their brand is so similar to ours. They probably got some of our cattle. But I've been here a long time, and it's the first time I've seen that brand."

"I'll take them back tonight," volunteered Hal, "or they'll think we're rustling their cattle. But, I don't know where to look for the ranch."

Hal left for the X Cross Plus ranch before the branding was over in order to find the ranch before dark. The final count of Harvey's herd of cattle had not been taken when Hal left, so he didn't know how they'd made out at the roundup. The general opinion seemed to be that there were fewer new calves than they'd expected to find.

Hal rode for miles inquiring at every ranch house if they knew where the X Cross Plus Ranch was. No one had heard of the ranch. After hours of fruitless search Hal decided to return to the X Bar I and resume his mission the next day. He took a short cut back to the ranch which led him over a deserted trail, familiar only to a few of the ranchers in the vicinity. Hal suddenly reined in his palomino. There in the distance was smoke. The danger of forest fire led him in the direction of the smoke and as he approached the source again he stopped short. He heard the unmistakable sounds of branding cattle. Quietly he approached, staying well hidden. To his surprise he saw in a clearing a make-shift corral and unmistakably branding was going on. Three men were working furiously. One roped the cattle, another held the cow while the third man worked the iron. Hal watched carefully and suddenly his eyes nearly popped out of his head. There was Maisie! As one calf was being branded, Maisie was roped and ready for the iron.

The picture was suddenly clear in Hal's mind. He realized why he hadn't spotted Maisie during the roundup, he knew why the X Bar I had a shortage of calves and he understood the similarity of the two brands. These rustlers needed only one iron to change the brand from X Bar I to X Cross Plus. Hal realized he could do nothing. He ran back to his palomino and raced back to the X Bar I.

The X Bar I was dead in sleep when he arrived. However, Hal pounded on the door of the ranch house and Mr. Harvey came to the door.

"Mr. Harvey," gasped Hal, "The X Cross Plus is not a ranch. They're rustlers! If we hurry we can catch them red-handed."

"Can you be sure?" questioned Mr. Harvey.

"I'm as sure, Mr. Harvey, as I know Maisie," continued Hal, "and I saw them re-branding. You can see how that can be done."

"You're right, Hal!" said Mr. Harvey. "Get the other boys. I'll go for the sheriff and the rest of you will ride to the 'X Cross Plus.'"

Hal wasted no time, aroused the other

men and they all rode behind Hal over the deserted trail. As they approached the make-shift corral they found it completely deserted. Quietly the men dismounted and searched through the corral. There was no sign of branding, no branding irons left as evidence. Hal's heart sank. He knew he'd been right. Of course, the rustlers had been too smart, they'd turned the cattle loose on the range with new brands, and had either hidden or destroyed the irons. Hal sighed in despair and the other men looked at him as if he'd been dreaming. They mounted their horses and sleepily returned to the X Bar I.

Hal sat on the rail of the corral, his world tumbling at his feet. As he sat waiting for the sheriff and Mr. Harvey and wondering what to tell them, something cold and slithery nuzzled into his hand. He jumped and almost fell from the rail but held on and looked down. There, unmistakably, was Maisie.

Hal leaped from the rail wanting to shout — "This is it! This is proof!" Then suddenly he thought, "Why is it proof? No one knows this is Maisie but me. What more proof have I now than before?" He looked at Maisie's brand there appeared the X Cross Plus — with two new cross lines obviously superimposed. That was proof!

Soon Hal heard the approach of the sheriff and Mr. Harvey. As they rode up to the corral, Hal greeted them.

"Sheriff," he said, "the men have disappeared and all evidence is gone, except Maisie here, my calf. Look at her brand and that should be enough to convince anyone."

The sheriff scanned Maisie's brand and agreed wholeheartedly with Hal, then said, "Now all we have to do is find the men and take them into custody. They can't be far from here."

The sheriff was right. The men had not gone far. Hal, Mr. Harvey and the sheriff slowly searched along the deserted trail and finally came upon three horses tethered to trees not far from the trail. The three dismounted and silently searched for the riders. Not far from the horses were three men stretched out on the ground asleep in their sleeping bags.

The sheriff had them covered just as they stirred and woke up. Hal and Mr. Harvey resorted to their fists. Fortunately, the three rustlers were drugged with sleep and offered little resistance. Before they were half awake, Hal and Mr. Harvey had them well tied with their lassoes and tossed them like sacks of meal over their horses' back. Hal searched through the sleeping bags and uncovered the evidence — a branding iron with a vertical and a horizontal bar. This iron used over the X Bar I brand conveniently turned the brand to X Cross Plus.

Hal again rode the range and always looked for Maisie. It was easy to pick Maisie from the rest of the herd because now she bore the unusual brand of X Cross Plus instead of X Bar I.

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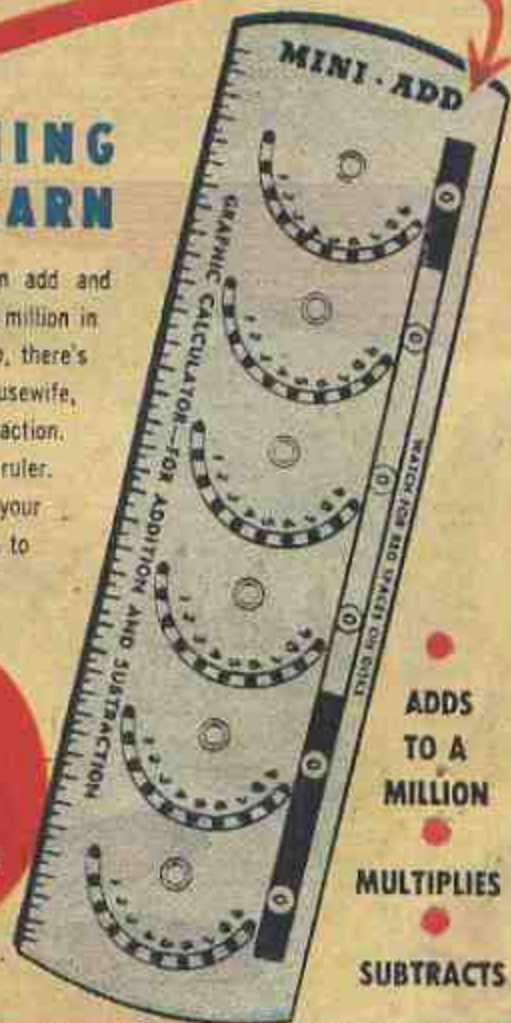
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BLACK DIAMOND

and "THE LOST MINE OF SAN SABA"

IF COLONEL BOWIE HAD NOT BEEN KILLED AT THE ALAMO, HE WOULD HAVE DIED THE RICHEST MAN IN THE UNITED STATES! FOR BOWIE CARRIED TO HIS GRAVE THE SECRET OF THE MOST FABULOUS OF ALL UNDISCOVERED MINES—THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN OF SAN SABA! THE FIRST REPORTS OF FABULOUS GOLD MINES DRIFTED INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GREEDY MEN YEARS BEFORE BOWIE TRICKED THE COMANCHES INTO REVEALING THEIR LEGENDARY SECRET. BUT NO OTHER WHITE MAN SAW THE GOLD! BUT NOW THE BLOODY HAND OF SIOUX SAM DANCER, THE RENEGADE, SEARCHED FOR THE SECRET HIDING PLACE, AND ONLY THE TWO-GUNNED SKILL OF THE BLACK DIAMOND STOOD BETWEEN DANCER'S GREED AND THE BLOODIEST COMANCHE UPRISING IN HISTORY!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AT A STAGECOACH STATION IN THE VICINITY OF HONEY CREEK...

SO SIOUX SAM, DANCER AND HIS MEN BLASTED THEIR WAY THROUGH TOWN...

LUKE SHOOTING DUCKS ON A POND FROM HERE!



SIOUX SAM, THE STAGE IS COMIN' IN!

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! GO ON, DO IT!



DYNAMITE
ARSENAL

DAILY



GET SET, SAM, SHE'LL BLOW IN A MINUTE!

OKAY, GRAB SOME OF THOSE STICKS! SHOVE 'EM INTO BUILDING ENTRANCES!



SUDDENLY...



IF WE KEEP THIS UP HOLLOWLEG WON'T HAVE MUCH TOWN LEFT TO CLEAN UP ON!



TWO MILES FROM HONEY CREEK, SIOUX SAM MEETS CHIEF HOLLOWLEG...

WE SAW YOUR SIGNAL, DANCER! YOU DO GOOD JOB?

SEE FOR YOURSELF! MONEY BACK GUARANTEE IF YOU AIN'T SATISFIED, HOLLOWLEG!

SEE YOU LATER, DANCER! FORWARD MY BRAVES! MASSAGE THEM CURSED PALE-FACES!



WAIT A MINUTE, HOLLOWLEG, I AIN'T BEEN PUT OFF THIS TIME! YOU KNOW OUR AGREEMENT! I HELP YOU BECOME HEAP BIG COMANCHE WAR CHIEF! YOU HELP ME BECOME RICH PALEFACE! THE DEAL GOES AHEAD WITH THIS JOB!

I KEEP MY PROMISE, DANCER! I SEE YOU LATER AT THE VILLAGE THEN I TAKE YOU TO SANSABA LOST ANNE!



BRER... I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE DOWN IN HONEY CREEK WHEN THE THE COMANCHE RIDE IN THERE WERE WOMEN AND KIDS IN THE STAGE, SAM!

THERE WERE WOMEN AND KIDS IN A DOZEN SETTLEMENTS WE SET UP FOR HOLLOWLEG! DON'T START GETTIN' A WEAK STOMACH NOW, FREDDY! NOT WHEN WERE SO CLOSE TO THE MINE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THIS SHOULD MAKE EVERY OTHER GOLD STRIKE IN HISTORY LOOK SICK! AN' WHO WE GOT TO THANK? A SPANIARD: DON BERNARDO, WHO WAS SENT FROM ACROSS THE BORDER TO CHECK UP ON RUMORS ABOUT GOLD MINES NORTH OF HONEY CREEK!

DON BERNARDO? I THOUGHT IT WAS BOWIE'S MAP YOU GOT HOLD OF!



GOLD! ENOUGH GOLD TO GIVE EVERY SETTLER IN THE SOUTHWEST A FULL CLAIM!

CARAMBA! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE NUGGETS— LIKE ROCKS!

FOOL, I'M TALKING ABOUT A TIME EVEN BEFORE BOWIE HEARD ABOUT THE MINES! ANYWAY, AFTER AN EIGHT DAY MARCH, BERNARDO REACHED AROUND SAN MIGUEL AND MADE IT HOME BASE! A DAY'S TRIP AWAY, NEAR CERRO DEL ALAMRE, DON BERNARDO FOUND SOMETHING...



BUT THE VEIN GAVE OUT QUICK, DISAPPEARIN' INTO THE SIDES OF THE MOUNTAINS! LATER, DON BERNARDO MET SOME FRIENDLY APACHES WHO TOLD HIM OF EVEN RICHER MINES AROUND THE SAN SABA RIVER...

TAKE US THERE, AND ALL THESE PRECIOUS GIFTS WILL BE YOURS!

NO! NO! YOU CAN NOT GO INTO THE SAN SABA MOUNTAINS! SAVAGE COMANCHES LIVE THERE! THEY WILL MASSACRE ALL WHO INVADE THEIR LAND!



SO DON BERNARDO GOT BLEV AN' GOT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO BACK HIM IN A NEW MISION! THEY BUILT A FORT ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE SAN SABA RIVER...

THE FORT WILL PROTECT US FROM THE COMANCHES WHILE WE CONDUCT MINING OPERATIONS!

LET US HOPE THAT THE RUMORS OF GOLD IN THESE MOUNTAINS ARE NOT JUST A LEGEND, DON BERNARDO!



BUT THEY HAD A MESS OF TROUBLE ESPECIALLY WITH THE COMANCHES! AN' THEY DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE! YOU CAN STILL SEE THE RUINS OF THE FORT AN' PEOPLE KEEP FINDING PARTS OF OLD SMELTERS, OLD PICKS, AND SHOVELS— IRRADIATION, DITCHES WITH ROTTED PIECES OF EQUIPMENT... EVERYTHING EXCEPT GOLD!



SINCE THEN A THOUSAND MEN HAVE COME AWAY WITH JUST DIRT IN THEIR HANDS! BUT THAT ONE-LEGGED MURDERIN' POLECAT, HOLLOWLEG, WHO'S HAVING A FIELD DAY NOW IN HONEY CREEK IS GOING TO TAKE ME, SIOUX SAM, DANCER, TO THE BIGGEST GOLD MINE IN THE WORLD!

KILL! KILL! DON'T LEAVE ONE ALIVE!

AYE, HOLLOWLEG, AFTER THIS RAID, OUR COWARDLY BROTHER COMANCHES WILL TAKE COURAGE AND FLOCK TO OUR ARMY!



AT TWILIGHT, THE DAY OF THE MASSACRE, BOB VALE, THE BLACK DIAMOND, AND HIS PAL, BUMPER RIDE INTO HONEY CREEK!

BOB, THEY DIDN'T SPARE A LIVING THING! THAT GOES FOR THE LIVESTOCK AS WELL AS THE HUMANS! I THOUGHT THE COMANCHES IN THE SAN SABA RANGE WERE PEACEFUL!

PEACEFUL AS RATTLE-SNAKES, BUMPER! THIS MASSACRE CONFIRMS A LOT OF RUMORS I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT A ONE-LEGGED COMANCHE NAMED HOLLOWLEG TAKING THE WARRATH ON HIS OWN! BUT FROM THE SIGNS OF THINGS, HE HAD WHITE HELP!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



AN UNEXPLODED STICK OF DYNAMITE, BOOTPRINTS, WANCHESTER SHELLS—LOOKS LIKE WHITE TRAITORS DID A JOB ON HONEY CREEK BEFORE THE INDIANS ARRIVED... THIS EVIDENCE ACCOUNTS FOR THE POOR FIGHT PUT UP BY THE TOWNSPEOPLE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! DAMN FEW DEAD COMANCHES LYING AROUND! WAIT! DO YOU HEAR SOMEBODY CALLING?



IT'S COMING FROM THE CEMENT SUBCELLAR! SOMEBODY'S TRAPPED INSIDE BUMPER! FIND SOMETHING WE CAN MOVE THOSE BEAMS WITH!

GOT IT RIGHT HERE! MAYBE WE'LL GET AN EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE SLAUGHTER!

HELP! WE'RE SUFFOCATING!



HAVE THEY GONES?

YES, MA'AM! YOU'RE THE ONLY SURVIVORS!

THANK PROVIDENCE FOR THE FOR-SIGHT THAT MADE ME BUILD THE STORAGE CELLAR! WHEN WE SAW THE ATTACK COMING, I MADE MY WIFE AND KIDS COME DOWN HERE!

DID YOU SEE ANY WHITE RENEGADES?



FOUR FELLERS TOUCHED OFF THE ATTACK BY KILLING EVERYBODY IN SIGHT! IS THIS WHAT'S LEFT OF HONEY CREEK?

IT'S AWFUL! ALL MY FRIENDS ARE LYING OUT HERE!

IF WE DON'T GET ON THE TRAIL OF THE VARMINTS WHO SET UP HONEY CREEK FOR THE COMANCHES, MA'AM, SIGHTS LIKE THIS WILL BE MESSING UP ALL OF THE

SOUTHWEST! TELL US ABOUT THE RENEGADES WHILE WE ESCORT YOU TO THE NEAREST TOWN...



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

I'LL REPORT THIS RAID TO THE U.S. ARMY AT THE FORT, BLACK DIAMOND, BUT THERE AIN'T ENOUGH TROOPS AT THE FORT TO PROTECT THE FRONTIER IF THE COMANCHES ARE UP TO SOMETHING!

JUST THE SAME, SHERIFF, PUT EVERY MARSHAL ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR SIOUX SAM DANCER! FROM THE BARTENDER'S DESCRIPTION, IT WAS DANCER WHO TOUCHED OFF THE HONEY CREEK MASSACRE!



I CAN'T SEE DANCER'S STAKE IN HELPING THE COMANCHES! DANCER DIDN'T HAUL AWAY A NICKEL'S WORTH OF LOOT, HE DIDN'T SELL THE INDIANS ANY GUNS OR FIRE WATER...

MAYBE HE'S GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SETTLERS! ISN'T THERE SIOUX BLOOD IN DANCER'S VEINS?



YOU'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK, BUMPER! SIOUX SAM'S ONLY INTEREST IS MONEY. FIND OUT WHAT TURN SAMS GREED IS TAKING AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR ANSWER!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

MEANWHILE, IN THE DARKNESS OF THE WOODS TO THE NORTH...

WAIT A MINUTE, HOLLOWLEG! ACCORDING TO THE MAP SOMEONE DREW OF THE MINE'S LOCATION WE SHOULD BE HEADING EAST NOT WEST LIKE YOU'RE DOIN'!

I DO NOT CARE WHAT MAP SAYS! THE MAP MAY LIE TO. THROW STUPID TREASURE HUNTERS OFF THE TRAIL! HOLLOWLEG KNOWS WHERE GOLD MINES ARE! COME!



THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, SAM? YOU KNOW HOLLOWLEG! HE'D DOUBLE CROSS HIMSELF TO GET WHAT HE WANTS!

HE STILL NEEDS ME, IF HE'S GOIN' TO BUILD A BIG ENOUGH REPUTATION TO START THE PEACE-LOVIN' COMANCHES DOIN' WAR DANCE! WELL FOLLOW HOLLOWLEG LIKE HE SAYS, BUT KEEP A FINGER ON YOUR GUN TRIGGER!



AN HOUR LATER, AS SENTRY FIRES GUARDING THE SAN SABA GOLD GLEAM THROUGH THE FOREST...

THERE! SAN SABA GOLD MINE!

WAIT, FOOL! SAN SABA GOLD IS SACRED! NOBODY TOUCH SAN SABA GOLD, BUT MEDICINE MAN!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HOLLOWLEG! THAT MAP WAS A PHONY! WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FORE! LET'S GET THAT GOLD!



HERE'S WHERE I MAKE A LIAR OUT OF YOU! LEAVE SO YOU CRIPPLE BEFORE I BLOW OFF YOUR OTHER LEG!

ALL RIGHT, DANCER! RUN TO THE MINES! ONLY EXPECT A DOZEN ARROWS TO ENTER YOUR GREEDY BACK BEFORE YOU TAKE TEN STEPS!

SAM! ALL AROUND US—INDIANS!



SO IT'S A DOUBLE CROSS! OKAY, HOLLOWLEG! BUT I DON'T GO ALONE! CALL OFF YOUR DOGS OR YOU'LL BE THE DEADEST COMANCHE AROUND!

PUT AWAY YOUR GUN, DANCER! I KNEW YOUR GREED SO I PREPARED THIS SURPRISE ONLY TO STOP YOUR RECKLESS RUSH FOR THE GOLD!



I WANT THAT GOLD TO BUY SUNE AND AMMUNITION, JUST AS YOU WISH TO USE IT FOR GAMBLING AND WOMEN! BUT WE CANNOT RUSH IT INTO OUR HANDS! WE MUST OUTWIT THE COMANCHE FOOLS WHO'D KILL US FOR TRYING TO STEAL IT!



LEGENDS WHICH GO BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS SAY THAT GREAT MISFORTUNE STRIKE SAN SABA COMANCHES IF THEY USE GOLD FOR ANYTHING BUT WORSHIP OF GREAT SPIRIT! ONLY MEDICINE MAN CAN MAKE HEADRESS, SPEAR, KNIFE, POT, OR RATTLES FROM GOLD! NOTHING ELSE...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THEN HOW DO WE GET OUR HANDS ON THE GOLD!

BY CLEVERNESS, DANGER! I KNOW MEDICINE MAN WHO IS AMBITIOUS! HE DREAMS OF DAY HE WILL BE CHIEF MEDICINE MAN OF ALL COWANCHE TRIBES! HE WILL HELP ME STEAL THE GOLD! I TAKE YOU TO HIM!

THEN I DON'T NEED THE MARIANO TO THINK I KILLED A PROSPECTOR FOR IT MONTHS AGO! BETCHA THERE'S A THOUSAND MAPS AROUND, ALL CLAIMING TO BE BOWIE'S MAP...

BOWIE! AYE! OUR TOBE REMEMBERS BOWIE! HE LIVED WITH COWANCHE FOR MANY YEARS TILL HE BECAME BLOOD BROTHER!

THEN ONE DAY MEDICINE MAN PERMIT BOWIE TO GO WITH HIM TO GET GOLD FOR NEW RELIGIOUS MASKS! BOWIE SAW THE GOLD AND HIS EYES GLEAMED WITH GREED....

A MOUNTAIN FULL OF GOLD AND YOU ONLY TAP IT FOR SPEARE AND KNIVES!

AYE FOR EVIL WILL COME TO HIM WHO STEALS GOLD! GREAT SPIRIT IS JEALOUS! GREAT SPIRIT WANTS GOLD ALL FOR HIMSELF!

BUT BOWIE LAUGHED AT INDIAN LEGEND! HE LED GANG OF GREEDY RAIFACES AND FOUGHT WAY INTO MINE! HE KILL MANY COWANCHE! HE GET FOUR, FIVE PIECES OF SOLID GOLD...

PURE GOLD - AN' THERE'S A WHOLE MOUNTAINFUL INSIDE...

IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, JIM! TROUBLE'S COMIN' OVER THE HILL!

BOWIE LEFT BEHIND MANY DEAD THAT DAY, BUT THEN HE HIMSELF DIED AT THE ALAMO! SO INDIAN LEGEND IS TRUE! HE WHO TOUCHES GOLD FOR HIMSELF DIE! YOU ARE FRIGHTENED, DANCER - YES!

NOTHIN' FRIGHTENS ME BUT THE THOUGHT OF HAIN! TO WAIT FOR THAT GOLD! YOUR MEDICINE MAN FRIEND BETTER HAVE AN ITCH TO MAKE LOTS OF RELIGIOUS OBJECTS! I AIN'T WALKIN' OUT OF THIS DEAL WITH NO MEASLY TWO OF THREE NUGGETS!

FOOL! CAN YOU MOVE THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN IN YOUR POCKET! WHERE IS YOUR PATIENCE! WHEN I AM CHIEF OF ALL THE COWANCHE, YOU SHALL HAVE GOLD ENOUGH, NOT BEFORE!

GREETINGS, CHIEF HOLLOWLEG!

YOU BRING OUT MUCH GOLD! WITH GOLD DANCER WILL BUY GUNS AND AMMUNITION! I WILL BECOME A REAL COWANCHE CHIEF! I WILL BECOME A GREAT MEDICINE MAN!

I DON'T HEAR HIM SAY WHERE WE'RE COMIN' IN! GAA!

ME NEITHER! I'VE GOT A PLAN OF MY OWN! COOKIN' FREDDY! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MEDICINE MAN!

Y... YOU MEAN... KNOCK OFF THE MEDICINE MAN! WE TAKE HIS PLACE AND DIG OUT GOLD DAY AND NIGHT, FOR US?

THEN WHEN WE THINK WE'RE RICH ENOUGH, WHOSE WITH HOLLOWLEG HOLDING THE BAGS! SMART, NOT! HEY, CHIEF! HOW ABOUT PASSING ME THE PEACE PIPE? I'M YOUR FRIEND, TOO!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THE NEXT DAY NOT FAR AWAY FROM THE SAN SABA COMANCHE VILLAGE...



YOU'RE RIGHT, DIAMOND! BOOT-PRINTS ALONG WITH MOCCAGIN PRINTS LEADING TO HOLLOWLEG'S SAILAWICK! WERE ON THE RIGHT, TRAIL!

TOO RIGHT! RELIAPON'S SIG-NALLING ME! DANGERS LIKING CLOSE BY! RELIAPON RARELY MISSES ON THE SMELL OF REDSKINS!



HERE THEY COME NOW! STEADY, BUMPER! POUR IT IN THICK AND FAST! THESE BABIES KEEP TRAVELLING TILL A BULLET STOPS THEM!

WELL, MY SCALPS STAYING WHERE NATURE INTENDED IT TO REMAIN!



MOMENTS LATER...

THEY'RE BREAKING! COVER ME, BUMPER, WHILE I CATCH A PRISONER!

PICK A TALKATIVE ONE!



HE SCREAMS LOUD ENOUGH IF THAT'S ANY SIGN!

WE'LL SOON SEE! WRAP HIM AROUND A TREE!

YEEAAA!



WHICH CHIEF LED THE HONEY CREEK MASSACRE? TALK OR I WILL CUT YOUR THROAT!

NO KILL! HOLLOWLEG - HE LEAD RAID! HOLLOW-LEG-HE BIG COMANCHE CHIEF-LEAD ALL COMANCHE AGAINST PALEFACES! KILL ALL PALEFACES!

TWO HOURS AFTER THE COMANCHE SPOKE...



THAT INDIAN GAVE US A STRAIGHT STEE! BOOTPRINTS MIXED WITH MOCCAGIN PRINTS HEADING DOWNHILL!

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE-TORN PIECES OF A MAP! I SEE WHY DANCER'S WORKING HIS DIRTY HEAD OFF FOR THE COMANCHE! THIS MAP WAS ONE OF THE THOUSAND VERSIONS OF BOWIE'S LOST MINE!



BUT WHAT DANCER AND TEN THOUSAND OTHER GREEDY FOOLS DON'T KNOW IS THAT THE MINE ISN'T LOST! THAT'S JUST A FALSE RUMOR CIRCULATED BY SAN SABA COMANCHE TO KEEP INVADERS AWAY FROM GOLD THEY WON'T EVEN TOUCH THEMSELVES BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPERSTITIONS! NO GUNS, BUMPER! THESE COMANCHE ARE FRIENDLY!

THAT'S A REFRESHING CHANGE!

A HALF HOUR LATER IN THE SAME COMANCHE VILLAGE IN THE TEEPEE OF THE MEDICINE MAN...



A PALEFACE HAS RIDDEN INTO THE VILLAGE! HE'S THE FEARLESS FIGHTER CALLED BLACK DIAMOND! HE DEMANDS TO SEE THE WHITE RENEGADES WHO SNEAKED INTO THE VILLAGE DURING THE NIGHT!

SAA, THE BLACK DIAMOND KNOWS US! HE'LL KILL US ON SIGHT!

SHUT UP! THIS AIN'T NO TIME TO LOSE YOUR NERVE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



LISTEN, CRAB FACE, YOU GO OUT THERE AND START THROWING SUSPICION ON THE BLACK DIAMOND! START MAKIN' THEM THINK THAT THE BLACK DIAMOND IS HERE TO STEAL THE SACRED GOLD!

GOOD IDEA! MEANWHILE, I'LL PREPARE AN AMBUSH FOR THIS PALEFACE MEDDLER!

MAKE IT A GOOD AMBUSH! THE BLACK DIAMOND'S GOT A HABIT OF SHOOTIN' HIS WAY OUTTA BAD ONES!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN FRONT OF THE CHIEF'S LODGE... MA-DITA-LONI, THE BLACK DIAMOND SEEKS WHITE RENEGADES WHO COVET THE GOLD IN OUR SACRED MINE!

THE BLACK DIAMOND DECEIVES YOU, CHIEF! BEWARE OF HIM! HE IS HERE BECAUSE HE COVETS THE GOLD HIMSELF!

A MAN WHO LIES SO QUICKLY IS CAPABLE OF OTHER EVILS AS WELL! WHERE ARE THE RENEGADES' ANSWER!



LET GO OF ME PALEFACE! YOUR TONGUE SPEAKS LIES AND MADNESS! THERE ARE NO RENEGADES HERE!

PROVE IT BY LETTING ME SEARCH YOUR LODGE!

THEN YOUR MEDICINE MAN HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A SEARCH OF HIS TENT!

BUT BLACK DIAMOND, NO PALE-FACES WERE SEEN IN MY CAMP!



STOP! ENTER MY TENT AGAINST MY WILL AND I WILL BRING A CURSE UPON THE WHOLE COMANCHE TRIBE!

I CANNOT LET YOU ENTER BLACK DIAMOND! MY PEOPLE FEAR THE POWER OF THE MEDICINE MAN!

I WILL RESPECT YOUR SUPERSTITIONS, CHIEF, BUT THE ACTIONS OF THE MEDICINE MAN HAVE ALREADY TOLD ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! LET'S GO BUMPER!



SINCE THE MEDICINE MAN IS THE ONLY COMANCHE WHO CAN DIG SAN SABA GOLD AND DANCER IS AFTER THE TREASURE, DANCER MUST BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM! ADD A CUTTHROAT LIKE HOLLOWLEG AND A BLOODY PLOT IS BEING HATCHED!

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?



FIND THE "LOST" MINE! SOONER OR LATER, THE MEDICINE MAN WILL TAP A VEIN OF GOLD... AND IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF THE SET-UP, HE'LL TAKE OUT FAR MORE GOLD THAN HE NEEDS FOR POTS AND PANS...

I GET IT, DIAMOND! IF WE NAIL THE MEDICINE MAN AND PUT THE SQUEEZE ON HIM, HE'LL TAKE US TO DANCER!

SIGNAL THE WARRIORS! THEY MUST DRAW THE BLACK DIAMOND DEEP INTO THE TRAP BEFORE THEY SPRING IT!



MEANWHILE, IN THE MEDICINE MAN'S TENT... THE BLACK DIAMOND NOSIN' AROUND HERE CHANGES THINGS! WE AIN'T GOT ALL YEAR TO GET THAT GOLD SO THE GOLD'S GOTTA GO TO US, NOT HOLLOWLEG! AN' IT'S GOTTA COME IN BIG GOBS! FREDDY, IS THE MEDICINE MAN STILL OUT THERE?

YEAH! ARGUIN' WITH THE CHIEF! EXPLAININ' TO HIM THAT HOLLOWLEG WAS VISITIN' HIM THE NIGHT BEFORE, BUT NOBODY ELSE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

OKAY WHEN THE MEDICINE MAN COMES IN WE KILL HIM! FREDDY KNOWS THE COMANCHE LINGO AND TALKING THROUGH A CEREMONIAL MASK, NOBODY'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE! THEN WITH US HACKIN' AWAY AT THEM WALLS OF PURE GOLD, WE'LL COME AWAY IN ONE NIGHT WITH ENOUGH GOLD TO LAST US A LIFETIME!

OKAY! GET SET! HERE COMES THE MONKEY NOW!



CHIEF VERY SUSPICIOUS! YOU GO NOW AND... WRRH!

YOU GOT THE STORY MIXED UP PARTNER! YOU'RE GOING NOW! KEEP THAT CHOKER CLOTH TIGHT AROUND HIS NECK, FREDDY!



OKAY, HIS TOES ARE CURLED! NOW TO BECOME A HEAP BIG MEDICINE MAN!

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO FRAME THE BLACK DIAMOND!

WE ARE! NOT ONLY WILL WE PLANT SOME OF THE GOLD ON HIM, BUT WE'LL FIX HIM SO HE GETS BLAMED FOR KILLIN' THE MEDICINE MAN!



YOU'RE FORGETTIN' HOLLOW LEG! US STEALIN' A MARCH ON HIM AND MAKIN' OFF WITH THE GOLD AIN'T GOING TO MAKE HOLLOWLEG FALL IN LOVE WITH US!

THAT'S WHY EVERYTHING'S GOTTA BE DONE TONIGHT! PLAY ONE OFF AGAINST THE OTHER... WHILE THEY'RE KILLIN' EACH OTHER OFF WE VAMOOSE WITH THE GOLD!



AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE DENSE WOODS, THE BLACK DIAMOND TENSES AS HE HEARS THE CRY OF A COYOTE...

HOLD UP BLUMPER! I CAN TELL A COYOTE'S CALL FROM A COMANCHE AMBUSH SIGNAL! DIVE FOR THAT CHAPARRAL BEFORE COMANCHE ARROWS TURN US INTO HUMAN PINCUSHIONS!



THEY RUN FOR THE THICKER! THEY SUSPECT AN AMBUSH! QUICK! FIRE! ATTACK!

JUST IN TIME! BUT WHO COULD BE ON THE SENDING SIDE?

OUR GOOD FRIEND HOLLOW LEG WILL SACRIFICE HIS LAST MAN TO GET US OUT OF HIS SCALP!



THEY'RE COMMITTING SUICIDE CHARGING BLINDLY AT US THIS WAY! WE MUST HAVE SHOT TWO DOZEN OF THEM BY NOW... AND STILL THEY COME ON!

THAT'S THEIR WORRY, BLUMPER... CIRCLE AROUND TO THE RIGHT THIS TIME! IF WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF TILL DARK, WE'RE SAFE! COMANCHE'S DON'T LIKE TO ATTACK AT NIGHT!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

HOURS LATER, AS DARKNESS FALLS ON THE CHAPARRAL...

NO MORE ATTACKS! MAYBE THE COMANCHES HAVE GIVEN UP!

IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND! THEY THOUGHT IF THEY DON'T KILL US WITH BRUSH FIRE, THEY'LL TRY BRUSH FIRE! LOCK, BUMPER, THE WIND'S BLOWING OUR WAY SO THEY'VE SET THE WOODS ON FIRE! RELIAPON! EL LOBO! LET'S GO!

THEY'RE WAITING FOR US TO COME OUT AT THE NORTH SO WE'LL RIDE SOUTH—INTO THE BRUSH FIRE!

WITH RELIAPON AND EL LOBO'S SPEED, AND WITH SOAKING WET BLANKETS COVERING US, WE STAND A CHANCE!

MINUTES LATER...

DARNED IF WE'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH!

HOLLOWLEG NOT ONLY MISSED OUT ON US, BUT THE WHOLE COMANCHE VILLAGES CAME DOWN TO STOP THIS BRUSH FIRE! THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO SNEAK IN AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THE MEDICINE MAN'S TENT! FASTER, RELIAPON!

MEANWHILE, IN THE COMANCHE VILLAGE...

THERE'S A FIRE DOWN IN THE CHAPARRAL AND THE WHOLE COMANCHE VILLAGE IS GOING DOWN TO FIGHT IT!

HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO SNEAK DOWN TO THE MINE AND HACK OUT A QUICK FORTUNE! C'MON, FREDDY, GET SOME PACK ANIMALS TOGETHER! TONIGHT WE CLEAN UP!

WIND COMES THERE! SPEAK!

I-MA-DITA-LOMI, THE MEDICINE MAN! I SEEK GOLD TO MAKE RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FOR THE GREAT HARVEST DANCE! LET ME PASS!

SUDDENLY, FROM AMBUSH...

THE WAY IS CLEAR! LET'S GO DOWN AND DIG THAT GOLD OUT!

MOMENTS LATER, AT THE CHAPARRAL...

HOLLOWLEG, WHAT IS THIS? THIS BRUSH FIRE WILL SET FIRE TO OUR GRAIN FIELDS! OUR ENTIRE CROP WILL BE DESTROYED! PERHAPS YOU DO NOT CARE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT THE GRAIN FIELDS OF YOUR VILLAGE!

BUT I DID NOT SET THIS FIRE, O MIGHTY CHIEF OF ALL COMANCHES! MY MEN CAUGHT THE BLACK DIAMOND STEALING GOLD FROM THE 'LOST MINE'! WE PURSUED HIM AND HE SET FIRE TO THE CHAPARRAL TO ESCAPE US!

I DO NOT BELIEVE BLACK DIAMOND WOULD STEAL THE SENTRY. AT THE MINE WILL TELL US IF HE WAS THERE! LISTEN, MY PEOPLE, BUILD A TRENCH TO THE CREEK TO HOLD OFF THE FIRE WHILE I GO WITH CHIEF HOLLOWLEG TO THE LOST MINE!

WE MUST SLAY THE MEDDLING CHIEF! THIS SENTRY WILL THROW MY LIE IN MY TEETH! PASS THE WORD TO THE MEN!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AT THE SAME TIME, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER ARE IN THE MEDICINE MAN'S TENT...

AND HERE'S SOME OF THE RENEGADES' CLOTHING!

THE PICTURE IS CLEAR, BUMPER! THE RENEGADES KILLED THE MEDICINE MAN, STRIPPED HIM, AND ONE OF DANCER'S LICE TOOK HIS PLACE! DANCER WANTS TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE GOLD PERSONALLY! NEXT STOP—THE LOST MINE!



ANOTHER THING, HOLLOWLEG, I'M GOING TO BRING UP THE MATTER OF YOUR BLOODY RAID AT THE NEXT COMANCHE GRAND POW-WOW! MOST OF US COMANCHE WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THE PALEFACE, AND YOU MAKE TROUBLE FOR US!

AYE, NOBLE CHIEF! MUCH TROUBLE! EXCEPT THAT THE BIG CHIEF AT GRAND POW-WOW WILL BE ME, FOR YOU WILL BE DEAD! QUICK, KILL HIM!



LOOK, BLACK DIAMOND, HOLLOWLEG AND THE PEACE-LOVING COMANCHE CHIEF! THEY'RE FIGHTING!

LET'S GET IN ON THIS!

IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND! HELP SAVE US! HOLLOWLEG WILL KILL US!



AFTER A FEW TELLING SHOTS...

THANK YOU, WHITE FRIEND! HOLLOWLEG SAID YOU STEAL FROM LOST MINE! THIS IS LIE, YES?

YES, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE IS STEALING FROM YOUR SACRED MINE, CHIEF! THE RENEGADE, SOUX SAM DANCER! TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF!



THE PALEFACE DEVIL HAS TRICKED ME! HE STEALS THE GOLD THAT SHOULD BE MINE—TO BUY GUNS AND AMMUNITION! I'LL SLAY HIM MYSELF!

SAW, LOOK! HOLLOWLEG HIMSELF! COMIN' AT ME WITH A KNIFE! HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US—THE DIRTY...



THE RENEGADE KILLED YOUR CHIEF! TAKE REVENGE!

NANCY NO! DON'T SHOOT! THEY'RE LOSIN' A SHOWER OF ARROWS!



ALL THIS DEATH WAS CAUSED BY ONE THING...MAN'S GREED FOR GOLD! NO WONDER THE GREAT SPIRIT SAID THE GOLD MUST ONLY BE HIS!

IF I WERE YOU, CHIEF, I'D MAKE IT ONLY HIS! THEN NO MAN WILL BE TEMPTED TO GET IT! I'D MAKE THIS MOUNTAIN OF GOLD REALLY LOST!

THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER RIDE THROUGH THE CHARARRAL...

I SEE THE CHIEF TOOK YOUR ADVICE, DIAMOND! HE BLEW THE MOUNTAINS APART WITH DYNAMITE!

THE CHIEF IS WISE, FOR AS LONG AS THAT LOST MINE COULD BE FOUND, WE'D HAVE TROUBLE WITH GREEDY WHITE PROSPECTORS AND ADVENTURERS! NOW THE GOLD IS BACK WITH MANITOU, WHERE IT BELONGS!



THE END

MY NEW SENSATIONAL SAW SAWS BOTH WOOD AND METAL

Amazing
Spiral
Blade



Here's the amazing saw invention that hobbyists and craftsmen are acclaiming from coast to coast. It cuts through any material like a high speed machine saw because the marvelous spiral cutting edge adds tremendous power to your stroke. Can't slip... grips metal or wood with even, instantaneous action... goes through either as quick as lightning. A revolutionary improvement that permits this saw

spiral to saw metal as easily as wood. If you're an expert you'll call it the most valuable tool in your shop... If you just like to do a few odd jobs around the house you'll be amazed at the fine quality work you can do with SPIRAL. Let us send you one on 10 days FREE TRIAL—you'll never part with it for double the money.

10 DAY
TRIAL
FREE!



SAWS

- Aluminum
- Blind
- Bow Saw
- Chain
- Circle
- Compound
- Electric
- Hand
- Interlocking
- Joint
- Leaf
- Master
- Miscellaneous
- Panel
- Pruning
- Push
- Reciprocating
- Rib
- Sawing
- Utility

An Amazing Spiral Blade That Saws on a New Principle

This revolutionary new saw consists of a special Vitro-Flax frame and a miracle blade that cuts anything from rubber to steel, WITHOUT CLOGGING OR JAMMING, and without CHEWING, CHIPPING OR TEARING THE MATERIAL. Imagine being able to cut in any direction without turning the saw! With its amazing new spiral blade this marvelous saw reaches into corners to cut the most difficult shapes—does work you just can't do with any other type blade. This Special Spiral Wonder Blade, the greatest saw invention since Miller's circular saw in 1777, is made of high carbon steel, hardened by a special heat-treating process. It withstands any hackaw or rapping saw blade.

Start your cut exactly where you want it—the blade will not jump or bend. You can guide the blade with your thumb with no danger of cutting. SO SAFE IT CAN BE USED FREELY, BY WOMEN OR CHILDREN.

IT'S SAFE — EVEN FOR CHILDREN

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Just put the SPIRAL in place and you're sawing on a straight, even line. It won't slip. It's safe. No matched edges to cut yourself. **SAFE FOR CHILDREN**

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This magnified section shows you the continuous spiral teeth.



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Ask me Special Spiral Saw with FOUR EXTRA BLADES for practically a lifetime of use. Upon arrival, I will pay postman \$1.95 plus few cents postage. If not completely satisfied, I can return the saw and blades for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Name _____

Address _____

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DANCE
IN
5 DAYS
OR
PAY
NOTHING!**



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HMM! YOU MEAN, I'M TO PACK THIS SLACK SACK, MAC?



IT ISN'T HOW MUCH YOU CARRY! EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ONE LETTER, IT MUST GO THRU IN SPITE OF BLIZZARDS, BLISTERS, BUNIONS AND BROKEN BONES!

WHERE DO I TAKE THIS?



OUT TO A LITTLE TOWN CALLED BUZZARDBURG! NO MAIL HAS EVER MADE IT THRU TO THERE BEFORE! JUST A LITTLE MATTER OF WOLVES, BANDITS, RATTLESNAKES, INDIANS, ETC., BUT WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU TO DELIVER IT!



THIRTY-TWO TICKETS!

REMEMBER, HEDY-- WHAT WE MUST DO IS GET THIS MAIL THRU!-- GO HIT THE GRAVEL AND LET'S TRAVEL!







500 STAMPS 10¢
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If you do have any of these Problems, or others like them, dear friend, then here is wonderful NEWS—NEWS of a remarkable NEW WAY of PRAYER that is helping thousands of other men and women to glorious NEW happiness and joy! Whether you have always believed in PRAYER or not, this remarkable NEW WAY may bring a whole NEW world of happiness and joy to you—and very, very quickly too!

So don't wait, dear friend. Don't let another minute go by! If you are troubled, worried or unhappy IN ANY WAY—we invite you to send your name and address with 10¢ (coin or stamps) so we can rush FULL INFORMATION to you by AIR MAIL about this remarkable NEW WAY of PRAYER that is helping so many others and may just as certainly and quickly help YOU!

You will surely bless this day—so please don't delay! Just mail your name, address and 10¢ (coin or stamps) now to LIFE-STUDY FELLOWSHIP, Box 3468, Norristown, Penn. We will rush this wonderful NEW Message of PRAYER and FAITH to you by AIR MAIL.

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STAMP PAGE
by *SIDNEY M. ELIAS*

Floating Safes

ONE of the most interesting types of stamps ever to be placed on sale were released by the Netherlands (Holland) in 1921. These were called marine insurance stamps and were issued for the purpose of safeguarding mail on the high seas.

Prior to 1921, letters or parcels sent by registered mail from the Netherlands abroad, did not insure the mail against loss if the ship met with a disaster. To meet the need of protection against such losses, a special device was invented and special insurance stamps issued for it.

The device consisted of a large ball shaped buoy in which was constructed an insulated and waterproof safe. It was so constructed that it would float upright if thrown into the sea and would ignite slow burning flares attached to it.

These safes were placed on all ships whether freight or passenger and a special crewman put on duty to be ready to set it free if the ship met disaster. The safes were placed on the upper decks of the forward part of the ships so that they could easily be cut loose and thrown overboard.

This service was later abandoned because of the high cost of the insurance. People soon discovered that sea losses were very small in comparison to the volume of mail carried and they did not consider the extra insurance necessary.

The seven stamps of the marine insurance set had three designs depending on the different values. The first design depicted a floating safe in mid-ocean surrounded by sea gulls. This design was used on the first three values. The second design showed a floating safe with its flares lit, and was used on the next two values. The third design was an artist's fantasy of a floating safe and was placed on the two highest values of the set.

The same designs were used on the seven marine insurance stamps of the Dutch East Indies.

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100% GUARANTEED VALUE
WHOLESALE CLOSET FULL 1000 Commemorative stamps, \$100 value, etc.—Unmatched, 60¢ each. Lower value—A chance of a fortune! Also wonderful early material, Catalog to \$1 on request.
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PARTS CUT TO SHAPE - READY TO ASSEMBLE



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